

ABSTRACT

A method of supporting multiple quality of service (QoS) levels for data being transmitted between two networking devices, such as customer equipment (CE), that use Ethernet and Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM). The method supports multiple QoS services in a network where a first CE is connected to a first edge device (interworking unit) using the Ethernet protocol and a second CE is connected to a second edge device using the ATM protocol. The edge devices may be directly connected together or they may be connected through a network backbone using any generally accepted network protocol. The first CE may be connected to the first edge device using a single Ethernet port, multiple Ethernet ports, a single virtual local area network (VLAN), or multiple VLAN's. The second CE is connected to an edge device using a single virtual circuit connection (VCC), a single virtual path connection (VPC), or multiple VCC's. The method ensures QoS for data transmitted between the first and the second CE via the Ethernet protocol to the ATM protocol and vice versa.